


# Recycling Matters!


## How recycling benefits everyone in Massachusetts

### Recycling saves money.




We throw away 1.5 million tons of paper every year. If we recycled half of this paper, we would save nearly **\$52 million** in disposal costs.

### Recycling means jobs.




**19,000 people** are employed at 1,400 recycling businesses and organizations in Massachusetts. These businesses have an annual payroll of \$557 million and produce \$3.5 billion in sales receipts.

### Recycling reduces greenhouse gases.



Recycling helps Massachusetts residents reduce the equivalent of **2 million metric tons** of carbon dioxide annually. That's like taking 1.6 million passenger cars off the road for a year.

### Recycling conserves energy.



Recycling in Massachusetts saved over **85 trillion BTUs** of energy last year, enough to power 820,292 homes for one year.

### Recycling saves resources.

Massachusetts recycled enough paper last year to prevent the cutting of nearly **17 million trees**.

*Brought to you by MassDEP*

*The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection*

Recycle.

a little  
effort  
a Big  
difference

Learn more:

[www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

# Does it really get recycled?

## Where do my recyclables go after pick-up?

- Massachusetts has seven processing facilities that sort and bale over 500,000 tons of recyclables each year. After processing, your recyclables are ready to enter the “recycling marketplace.”

## Who uses recyclables after they're sorted?

- Recyclables are valuable commodities in today's global economy. About half of the bottles, cans, and paper collected in Massachusetts are sold to manufacturing plants in the Northeast; the other half goes to markets in China, India, and Brazil.

## What is made out of all that stuff?

- Paper and cardboard are turned into cereal and cracker boxes, book covers, and game boards at recycling paper mills in Fitchburg and Haverhill.
- Glass bottles and jars are melted and used to make new containers at facilities such as St. Gobain Containers in Milford.
- Plastic soda bottles become polyester fiberfill for jackets and sleeping bags, or polar fleece made by Malden Mills in Lawrence.
- Milk jugs, detergent bottles, and other #2 plastics become landscaping timbers and whiskey barrel planters made by Smartware Products in Leominster.

## A Little Effort *Does* Make a Big Difference

Recycling - It conserves resources, supports local businesses, and saves YOU money.

To learn how to recycle in your community visit: [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

